

of this matter is of obvious importance to the people of Iraq who have a constitutional right to the oil resources of Iraq.

Furthermore, close ties between Hunt Oil Company and the Administration's top officials coupled with this precedent setting agreement appears morally debased. The following will assist in clarifying this connection: Ray Hunt, CEO of Hunt Oil Company, was twice appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). Mr. Hunt raised campaign funds for President George H.W. and George W. Bush. He also personally donated \$20,000 to the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for the current President Bush. Ray Hunt gave \$100,000 toward the 2001 Bush inaugural festivities and one of his corporations, Hunt Consolidated, gave another \$250,000 toward the Bush 2005 presidential inaugural gala. In addition, Ray Hunt donated \$35 million toward the Bush library/think tank to secure additional property for the project.

This unmatched deal struck by the Hunt Oil Company coupled with the company's ties to the administration could be viewed as hostile to the interests of Iraq amidst growing knowledge of Iraqi opposition to privatization and sale of Iraq's national oil reserves.

Your investigation should address how the agreement will affect Iraqi public sentiment toward the Iraqi and U.S. governments, insurgent efforts, the stability of Iraq and the stated goals of U.S. policy to bring peace and stability to the region.

I look forward to your timely response and the conclusions of your investigation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I request that the Full Committee begin an investigation into the recently announced oil production sharing agreement between the Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The recently announced agreement raises numerous concerns.

(I) Was the U.S. company Hunt Oil and its CEO, Ray Hunt, in entering into the agreement with the KRG, the beneficiary of a special relationship with the Bush administration? Have reported ties between Ray Hunt and the Bush administration led to special advocacy for Hunt Oil by the administration that resulted in the production sharing agreement with the KRG?

In 2002, Mr. Hunt acted as the finance chairman of the Republican National Committee for President Bush. Mr. Hunt led the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for George W. Bush and personally donated \$20,000 to the committee. Mr. Hunt contributed \$100,000 toward inaugural festivities for President Bush in 2001, while Hunt Consolidated contributed \$250,000 toward the 2005 Bush presidential inaugural gala. Mr. Hunt has also given generously toward construction of the Bush library by securing \$35 million dollars in additional property for the endeavor.

Furthermore, Mr. Hunt has twice been appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB); most recently in 2006. The PFIAB is said to have access to intelligence information that is not available to a majority of the members of Congress. There are experts who acknowledge that information accessible to Mr. Hunt through the PFIAB is advantageous to the

international energy interest of the Hunt Oil Company.

It is also notable that Vice President Cheney, as the head of Halliburton, invited Mr. Ray Hunt to sit on the Halliburton Board of Directors.

(II) Was Kurdistan pressured into promulgating a new oil law and/or entering into production sharing agreement with Hunt Oil and perhaps other administration connected companies by elements of the U.S. government in Iraq?

It should be of great concern to all those who wish to see Iraq achieve self-sufficiency that the Iraqi Central Government is opposed to the agreement entered into by the Hunt Oil Company and the KRG. Iraq's oil minister, Hussain al-Shahrastani, has said "any oil deal has no standing as far as the government of Iraq is concerned. All these contracts have to be approved by the Federal Authority before they are legal. This (contract) was not presented for approval. It has no standing."

(III) Does the Hunt Oil Company's deal with the KRG foretell of more such agreements in the future? If the KRG does plan to announce more production sharing agreements in the future what would be the consequences for any revenue sharing programs initiated by the Iraqi Central Government?

On numerous occasions President Bush has stated his support for a revenue sharing program in Iraq. On May 31, 2007, at a White House press conference President Bush stated, "We're working very hard, for example, on getting an oil law with an oil revenue-sharing code that will help unite the country." On August 9, 2007, at another White House press briefing, Mr. Bush stated, "People say we need an oil revenue sharing law. I agree with that, that needs to be codified."

While many have pointed out that the oil law that President Bush has supported is primarily a privatization bill, nevertheless is not the announcement between Hunt Oil and the KRG undermining the alleged purpose of the Iraqi oil law? Is this not at odds with President Bush's stated goal of revenue sharing? Supposedly the U.S. is in favor of an Iraqi oil revenue sharing program, but will the Hunt Oil agreement with the KRG contribute to or undermine a revenue sharing program in Iraq?

It is hard to imagine that in Iraq there is any matter more controversial than oil. So long as the U.S. occupies Iraq, it is hard to imagine that there can be anything more damaging to the United States' world reputation than the awarding of oil agreements to Bush administration cronies.

In light of the Full Committee's excellent past work on Halliburton, I strongly recommend that the Full Committee ascertain the relationships between the Hunt Oil Company, the Bush administration and the KRG that resulted in the September 9, 2007 announcement of the oil production sharing agreement.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 24, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 193, H. Res. 668, H.R. 1199, and H. Res. 340 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 891 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 892 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 893 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 894 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims, and families of victims, involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND THE TRI-HAMPTON RESCUE SQUAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad for their outstanding service and dedication to protecting our community. Everyday, they willingly and selflessly risk their lives to protect our families, friends and neighbors. They set an example with their inspiring courage and devotion and their sacrifice deserves our sincerest thanks and utmost respect.

Madam Speaker, as the son of a former Philadelphia police officer, I know how hard America's first responders work to keep our cities and towns safe. They bravely face considerable danger and peril for the safety of families across our community. As their proud representatives, we ought to be just as committed to providing our first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs. True homeland security means supporting those who keep our families safe.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad serve tirelessly to protect our community and we should do everything possible to give them the support they need to keep us safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA LORENSEN,
LAURA SMITH, AND BARBARA
PICHOT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Lorenson, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot who are being honored by the Girl Scouts Shawnee Division as the 2007 Women of Distinction.

These three ladies are being honored for their career accomplishments and leadership that have made them role models for young women in their communities. The Girl Scouts Shawnee Council honors three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle.

The first honoree, Maria Lorenson, is being recognized for her role as editor-in-chief with the Martinsburg Journal. She has received various awards and honors in her 11 years with the Martinsburg Journal from the West Virginia Press Association. Maria is credited for balancing her career with her role as a wife, mother, and community leader.

Laura Smith of Morgan County is being honored for her many leadership roles in her community. She is currently the president of the Morgan County Board of Education. She has worked to promote the beauty of Morgan County through her work with Travel Berkeley Springs and as board member of George Washington Heritage Trail. She is also an active member of her church, St. Marks Episcopal Church.

The final recipient of the 2007 Women of Distinction award is Barbara Pichot. At a time when many women were not entering the field of business, Barbara was a trailblazer and eventually became a partner in the accounting firm Cox, Nichols and Hollida until her retirement. She now dedicates herself to volunteer endeavors including Rotary, United Way, and is responsible for the development of Hospice of the Panhandle.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Maria Lorenson, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot as the 2007 Women of Distinction.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM
H. WATSON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Reverend William H. Watson, who was a long-time social activist and resident of Newark, NJ. His passion for social justice led him to direct many social service organizations within my district and the northeast coast of the United States.

Born on September 23, 1934, in Memphis, Tennessee, Rev. Watson always exhibited a passion for helping others. After ordination in the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bill served a couple of churches in North-Central Pennsylvania and served as Campus Minister at Penn State University.

Rev. Watson served respectively as the Executive Director of Voice a church based organization supporting community organization in northeastern Pennsylvania and as Director of the Social Concerns Department of the Capitol Region Conferences of Churches in Hartford, Connecticut.

Later in life, Rev. Watson worked at Unified Vailsburg Service Organization (UVSO) in Newark, NJ—a neighborhood based human services and community development agency founded by local residents in 1972 to “create a stable and compassionate community” by

bringing together representatives of various local groups in an attempt to solve some of the neighborhood problem. Rev. Watson worked as a community organizer dealing with issues of crime, education, and housing.

Reverend Watson also served as a VISTA Volunteer with the Newark Tenants organization; a member of the Board of Directors of Inside-Out: Citizens United for Prison Reform, Inc.; member of the Northeast Inter-Help Council which deals with social justice issues and ecology, and a founding member secretary of the Board of Directors of the Family Partnership Committee, and Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Reverend William H. Watson, whose spirit lives on through lives he touched and work he accomplished while on earth. I am proud to have had him in my Congressional district.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF
THE MONTICELLO DAM

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleagues, Hon. GEORGE MILLER and Hon. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Monticello Dam. This monumental accomplishment has been instrumental in providing the people of Solano County with a vast supply of high quality water.

Completed in October of 1957 as part of the Solano Project, the Monticello Dam rises 304 feet high spanning a gorge of 1,023 feet while storing 1.6 million acre feet of water. The Monticello Dam created Lake Berryessa and is one of the largest reservoirs in the State of California.

The Monticello Dam is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation but is operated and maintained locally by the Solano County Water Agency.

Through the management of the Monticello Dam, the Solano County Water Agency is able to provide 200,000 acre feet per year of high quality and dependable water. This supply amounts to about two-thirds of the total water use of Solano County. The Solano Project serves a growing population of about 350,000 people in the cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo. Additionally the Solano Project serves about 80,000 acres of irrigated farmland by providing agricultural water to the Solano Irrigation District and the Maine Prairie Water District.

In addition to serving the water needs of our communities the Monticello Dam has additional local benefits. The Dam created Lake Berryessa, 23 miles long and 3 miles wide with 165 miles of shoreline that offers year-round recreational opportunities.

The river downstream of the Dam, known as Lower Putah Creek, provides a valuable fish and wildlife area on the border of Yolo and Solano Counties. Community groups such as the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee are involved in creek restoration planning. This committee, made up of Yolo and

Solano representatives, oversees stream restoration projects that enhance the natural setting.

We wish to commend the Solano County Water Agency for 50 years of outstanding management of the Monticello Dam and recognize its essential contribution to the quality of life in the region.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of those American mothers who have lost children in the service of our country. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 605, I strongly support this resolution to recognize their great sacrifice and suffering.

The Gold Star Mothers Club was formed in the United States to provide support for mothers that lost sons or daughters in war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the U.S. in their honor.

American Gold Star Mothers is a nationwide organization first incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1929 after years of effort by the mother of a deceased airman fighting in World War I. In the years following, the organization has grown to include members and chapters across the country.

The responsibility of motherhood is vast and as our mothers raise their children, they do so with great hope. This hope does not involve losing a child to war but raising a son or daughter that strives to change the world for the better. This bill acknowledges that those mothers have succeeded in that goal and we, too, recognize the ultimate sacrifice their children have made. H. Res. 605 supports the Gold Star Mothers and ensures that their sacrifice and that of their children will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 605 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALEX
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alex Rodriguez, who, on August 4, 2007, made history by becoming the youngest baseball player to hit 500